

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended, and in light of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-59, 61-80, and 83-90 are pending in this application. Claims 59, 61, and 83 are amended; and Claims 60, 81, and 82 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and dependent Claims 87-90 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 31-39, 51-53, and 58 were indicated as no longer being withdrawn from consideration; Claims 60 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 59, 63-65, and 81-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,945,645 to Baron in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,004,421 to Landa; Claim 62 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Baron in view of Landa and Japanese Patent JP 7-329371 to Osawa; Claims 77-79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Baron in view of Landa and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0113986 to MacDonald; Claim 80 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Baron in view of Landa and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0258594 to Steenstra et al. (herein "Steenstra"); Claims 60, 61, and 83-86 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claims 30-58 are allowed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowed Claims 30-58 and allowable subject matter in Claims 60, 61, and 83-86. Accordingly, Claim 59 is amended to recite the features of allowable Claim 60, which is accordingly canceled; allowable Claim 61 is amended to recite the features of Claim 59 and to be in independent form; allowable Claim 83 is amended to recite the features of Claims 81, 82, and 59 and to be in independent form, and Claims 81 and 82 are canceled. Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are

rendered moot, and independent Claims 59, 61, and 83, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Further, regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion in the Office Action that Claims 60 and 61 are indefinite with respect to whether or not a cutting operation is part of the claimed method. On the other hand, Applicant notes that amended Claim 59 recites a step of determining portions of said at least one printable sheet to be weakened. In other words, the determining portion step determines which portions of a printable sheet will be weakened, without being cut through, in some subsequent cutting operation. However, the claim does not recite or require the cutting operation itself to be performed as part of the method. Similarly, cutting operations are not required in the methods recited by Claims 61, 65, or 76. In addition, new dependent Claims 87-90, which depend from Claims 61, 65, and 76, respectively, recite a step of instructing a peripheral device to perform the cutting operation without cutting through the portions of the at least one printable sheet to be weakened. Therefore, as the cutting operation is performed in the added dependent claims, it can be more clearly seen that the cutting operation is not included in the method of Claims 59, 61, 65, or 76. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant respectfully notes that Claims 66-76 depend from allowable Claim 59, which is an allowable generic claim as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 66-76 should be rejoined and be indicated as allowable.

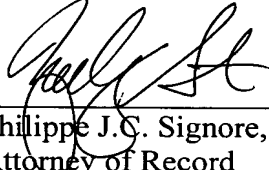
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 30, 59, 61, and 83, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 30-59, 61-80, and 83-90 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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